

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

As shown below, please rewrite claims 1, 15, and 18, cancel claim 3, and add new claim 22.

Please rewrite claims 1, 15, and 18 as follows:

Sw. 7  
C1

--1. (Amended) Method for communication between an application program and a network device driver program through intermediate structure software, comprising the steps of:

- a. supplying of application data units from the application program to a first program object being part of the intermediate structure software;
- b. performing of first functions of the first program object on the application data units;
- c. supplying of resulting first data units from the first program object to a second program object being part of the intermediate structure software;
- d. performing of second functions of the second program object on the first data units;
- e. supplying of the resulting second data units to the network device driver program;

wherein supplying data units between program objects is accomplished by passing references pointing to memory locations of the data units, and

wherein for at least one application data unit, the memory location storing data of the application data unit is the same memory location as the memory location storing at least some of the data of the corresponding first data unit and as the memory location for storing at least some of the data of the corresponding second data unit.--

--15. (Amended) System for communication between an application program and a network device driver program and vice versa through intermediate structure software, comprising.

a. a first program object being part of the intermediate structure software and for performing of first functions on data units, said data units being transferred to and from the application program and data units being transferred to and from said first program object;

b. a second program object being part of the intermediate structure software and for performing of second functions on said data units, said data units being transferred to and from said second program object and data units being transferred to and from the network driver;

wherein transferring data units between program objects is accomplished by passing references pointing to memory locations of the data units, and

wherein for at least one data unit, data of the data unit is not moved to a different memory location while the first program object performs said first functions and while the second program object performs said second functions.--

--18. (Amended) Method for communication between a network device driver program and an application program through intermediate structure software, comprising the steps of:

a. supplying of first data units from the network device driver program to a first program object or protocol object being part of the intermediate structure software;

b. performing of first functions of the first program object on said first data units;

c. supply of resulting second data units from the first program object to a second program object being part of the intermediate structure software;

d. performing of second functions of the second program object on the second data units;

C3  
~~a. supplying of resulting application data units from the second program object to said application program;~~

~~wherein supplying data units between program objects is accomplished by passing references pointing to memory locations of the data units, and~~

~~wherein for at least one application data unit, the memory location storing data of the application data unit is the same memory location as the memory location storing at least some of the data of the corresponding first data unit and as the memory location for storing at least some of the data of the corresponding second data unit.--~~

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Please cancel claim 3.

Please add new claim 22 as follows:

25.7  
C4  
~~--22. (New) Method according to claim 1, further comprising creating a service data unit for each application data unit, each service data unit including a size value indicating the size of data of the application data unit and an offset value indicating the memory location storing data of the application data unit,~~

~~wherein supplying data units between program objects by passing references includes passing service data units corresponding to the supplied data units.--~~

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**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.